

A NOTE ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF SOME MICROGASTERINE BRACONIDAE (HYM.).

WITH REFERENCE TO THE WORKS OF HALIDAY AND NEES
VON ESENBECK PUBLISHED IN 1834.

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In the year 1834 two* important works on the *Braconidae* appeared. Haliday published two parts of his series of papers entitled "Essay on the Classification of Parasitic Hymenoptera, etc.," in the second volume of the *Entomological Magazine*. This volume bears the date 1835 on its title-page, but only the fifth and final part was published in January of that year, the other parts being dated from January 1834 (No. vi) to October 1834 (No. ix). In this year Nees von Esenbeck's *Hymenopterorum Ichneumonibus affinium monographiae, genera Europaea et species illustratae* was published in Stuttgart and Tübingen, in two volumes. Many older authors regarded Haliday's papers as published in 1835 and thus priority has usually been given to Nees, where both authors described the same species. I believe, however, that there are data which may cause this decision to be reversed.

On the fly-leaf of the copy of Nees belonging to the Royal Entomological Society of London there are the following pencil notes:

"Listed in works published 'depuis 1er Octobre 1834.'

See *Ann. Soc. ent. Fr. (Bull. ent.)*, 3: xciv.

Received. Vol. 1. By Soc. ent. France, vol. 1, 1834, between 6.viii.34 & 3.ix.34. See *Ann. Soc. ent. Fr. (Bull. ent.)*, 3: xli.

Vol. 2. Between 17.xii.34 & 7.i.1835. See *Ann. Soc. ent. Fr. (Bull. ent.)*, 4: 'ii.'

I am not in a position to check the above references at the moment but the evidence which they give seems to indicate that volume 1 of Nees' Monograph was published sometime after 1st August 1834 and his second volume towards the end of the year, perhaps in December.

Haliday's work in the 1834 parts of the *Entomological Magazine* consists of a paper in the January number (No. vi: 93-106) devoted to the group we now call the *Aphidiidae* and a second in the July issue (No. viii: 225-259) on the *Microgasterinae*. The first of these almost certainly predates Nees' publication and Haliday's names should have priority. This does not at present render necessary any alterations since the identity of many of Nees' Aphidiids are very doubtful and the names of Haliday have therefore long been in use. The second paper, published in July, probably predates the first volume of the Monograph

*Actually a third work published this year complicates the synonymy of a few species of the *Microgasterinae*. This is Bouché's *Naturgeschichte der Insecten besonders in Hinsicht ihrer ersten Zustände als Larven und Puppen*, Berlin, 1834, pp. 5+216, 10 pls. I have not seen this work, of which the above is said to be only the first part. Since the species of *Microgasterinae* and others described are, however, quoted by Nees in his second volume, it is probable that the *Naturgeschichte* pre-dates both volumes of Nees' Monograph. I have no data for forming an opinion of its chronological relation to Haliday's *Essay*. Where Bouché's species have been thought to be identified with certainty they appear to have been given priority by Marshall, Dalla Torre, and other authors.

of Nees and is almost certainly prior to the second volume. However, it will perhaps be better to await further evidence before making any alterations for three reasons: (1) because several are well known, widely used names of economically important species, (2) because the late D. S. Wilkinson's excellent work on *Apanteles*, etc., has shown that Marshall's synonymy is not always to be relied upon and it is therefore necessary to re-examine the species in question before adopting any changes, and (3) because work is now progressing to complete the monograph started by Wilkinson wherein presumably these questions of nomenclature will be fully dealt with.

It may be useful, however, to list the instances where changes may be necessary. It should be noted that only in the case of the well-known *Apanteles congestus*, Nees, did the Neesian name first appear in the second and later volume of the Monograph. On the evidence given this name would certainly require to be replaced by *A. intricatus*, Haliday. All the species described by both authors were placed under the generic name *Microgaster*. In the list which follows the current names are placed on the right:

- Apanteles intricatus*, Hal., and *congestus*, Nees.
- Apanteles praetextatus*, Hal., and *analis*, Nees.
- Apanteles equestris*, Hal., and *falcatus*, Nees.
- **Apanteles annularis*, Hal., *hilaris*, Hal., and *emarginatus*, Nees.
- Apanteles arenarius*, Hal., and *obscurus*, Nees.
- Apanteles lacteipennis*, Hal., and *albipennis*, Nees nec Hal.
- Apanteles candidatus*, Hal., and *impurus*, Nees.
- Apanteles albipennis*, Hal., and *halidaii*, Marshall.
- Apanteles umbellatarum*, Hal., and *circumscriptus*, Nees.
- Microplitis* (new name required) and *spinolae*, Nees nec Hal.
- Microgaster consularis*, Hal., and *connexus*, Nees.
- Microgaster infumatus*, Hal., and *rugulosus*, Nees.
- Microgaster annulipes*, Hal., and *subcompletus*, Nees.
- Microgaster spinolae*, Hal., and *crassicornis*, Ruthe.

It should be noted that Wilkinson (1941, *Proc. R. Ent. Soc. Lond.* (B), 10: 71) has already published a paper on *Apanteles albipennis*, Hal., but was unaware of the data here recorded and he therefore used the name *A. halidaii*, Marshall, 1885.

**Apanteles annularis*, Hal., is listed by Dalla Torre (1898, *Cat. Hym.*, iv) as distinct from *emarginatus*, Nees.

COLLECTING NOTES.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE NOTES.—The winter of 1942-3 was an unusually mild one—the newspapers asserted that it was the mildest for thirty years—and the prophecy recorded in my diary on 1st April, that “the coming months will probably be the worst, entomologically, for thirty years” unhappily proved to be true. It was a most disheartening season, in mid-Wales, and many species which are usually plentiful were almost entirely absent. An exception was the Grayling butterfly, which occurred in such abundance as I have never before known in my many years' experience of this county.